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THE OPI REPORT

Office of Public Instruction
Ed Argenbright
Superintendent

OCTOBER 1986

SAM Conference in Billings

The location of the School Administrators of Montana conference on October 15-17 was listed incorrectly in September's *Montana Schools* and *OPI Report*. The SAM conference is in Billings, not Great Falls. Apologies.

Education Budget Planning Begins

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Ed Argenbright has proposed a budget of $463.1 million for public education in the next biennium, a 2.2 percent increase in state funding for schools.

The additional funds would maintain the level of funding set by the legislature in 1985, before a revenue shortfall forced budget cuts earlier this year. The budget includes $85.7 million in general fund money, a 26 percent decrease due to additional federal funds and fewer personnel resulting from this year's spending reductions.

Argenbright emphasized that the budget submitted to the State Board of Education and Governor was preliminary. "This is just a starting point," he said.

Teacher Supply is Healthy for Now

Montana has a healthy supply of teachers, according to a report given the State Board of Public Education by John Voorhis, director of Certification Services at the Office of Public Instruction. However, there is no guarantee the supply will last.

Voorhis told board members that each year about four out of every 10 new teachers in Montana come from other states, but there is no way to predict whether the source will continue.

Montana needs more teachers in special education, music, library, school psychologists and guidance counselors with teaching experience, although the shortages in these areas are not extreme. The state does not have the critical shortages of math and science teachers experienced by other states, he said, largely due to state policies that let teachers teach in their minor fields and allow liberal arts graduates to teach for three years before obtaining their certificates.

Exercises on Commemorative Days

Schools are reminded that Montana law states that all school districts shall conduct appropriate exercises during the school day on the following commemorative days:

Lincoln's Birthday (Feb. 12)
Washington's Birthday (Feb. 22)
Arbor Day (last Friday in April)
Flag Day (June 14)
Citizenship Day (Sept. 17)
Columbus Day (Oct. 12)
Pioneer Day (Nov. 1)
Other days designated by the legislature or governor as legal holidays.

When these commemorative days fall on a weekend, exercises may be conducted the preceding Friday.

Certification Reminders

OPI's Certification Services would like you to take note of the following reminders about certification.

Continuing education *units* will not be applied towards teacher certification. Be vigilant and discerning in taking coursework to ensure that academic *credits* are given.

All teachers should be aware of the difference between renewal and reinstatement to determine whether they should take the National Teachers Examination. For example, renewal of the Class 2 certificate requires one year of teaching experience and six quarter credits. When either of these requirements is not met, a reinstatement category results. All reinstatements must take the NTE in addition to academic requirements.

Three years of teaching experience are currently required for endorsement as a guidance counselor. Two of the three years must be obtained in a K-12 setting.

Credits for initial certification or renewal/reinstatement of teaching certificates must be acquired from fully accredited colleges. "Accredited" refers to colleges with a regional accrediting association as a base. Probational or provisional approval by the accrediting association is not adequate for acceptance of college credits for certification.

If you are in doubt about the credits offered by a particular college, or any other certification matter discussed here, call Certification Services at 444-3150.

Math and Science Teachers Honored

Two Montana teachers are recipients of the 1986 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching from the U.S. Department of Education.

Shirley Johnson, math teacher at North Junior High School in Great Falls, and Craig Kuchel, science teacher at Florence-Carlton High School, received the awards for excellence in teaching.

Arts Council Seeks Comments on Planning

The Montana Arts Council is seeking public comment on its two-year plan of goals and objectives. Comments may be given at the remaining meetings (Missoula, October 20, 7:30 pm in the offices of Montana Power Company, or in Billings, October 24, 7:30 pm at the Yellowstone Art Center). Or, you may request a copy of the plan, which has a form for submitting written comments by the deadline, October 25. For more information, contact the Montana Arts Council, 35 South Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59620 (444-6430).

Kalispell Schools Honored

Kalispell Public Schools are among the 25 best school systems in the nation, according to *Women's World*. The national publication based its choices on recommendations from state school officials, the U.S. Department of Education, the American Federation of Teachers and the Institute for Responsive Education in Boston.

Kalispell schools can add this honor to their selection as a Center for Excellence by the National Council of Teachers of English.

Student Leader Scholarships

The Josten Foundation Leader Scholarship will award 250 $1,000 scholarships to graduating high

school seniors who have shown outstanding leadership qualities and have excelled in school, community and volunteer activities. Financial need is not a criterion for selection. There is no limit to the number of students from a school who may apply.

Josten has sent application guidelines to schools. The deadline is November 15. For information, contact: Josten Foundation Leader Scholarship Program, PO Box 88, St. Peter, MN 56082.

Westinghouse Science Search

High school seniors with exceptional talent in math, science or engineering may be interested in the annual Westinghouse Science Talent Search, which awards scholarships for independent student research projects. The deadline for applications is December 15.

For information, write Science Service, Westinghouse Science Talent Search, 1719 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036 (202-785-2255).

NWREL Seminar on Changing Workplace

Policymakers and practitioners in education, business and labor will gather in Portland, Oregon, November 5-6 for "Work Now and in the Future III," third in a series of conferences on preparing tomorrow's workers for the changing world of work.

The conference, sponsored by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, is designed for classroom teachers, JTPA specialists, counselors, community college faculty, school administrators, board members and others interested in preparing young people and adults for the future.

For information, contact Mary Lawrence, Consultant, 3220 SW Stark, Room 411, Portland, OR 97204.

Board Meeting on Senate Bill 15

The October meeting of the State Board of Public Education will include information from experts, studies from other states and past legislative reports relating to recent state legislation, Senate Bill 15. The bill requires the board and Superintendent of Public Instruction to present to the 1987 legislature proposals for cost saving measures in the public school system. The informational meeting is designed to give the board background for the proposal. It will take place on October 21 of the board's October 20-21 meeting in Great Falls.

Calendar

Oct. 8-10--ECIA Chapter 1 Workshop, Great Falls (444-3083)
Oct. 12-18--National School Lunch Week
Oct. 15-17--School Administrators of Montana Conference, Billings (442-2510)
Oct. 16-17--MEA Conference, Bozeman (442-4250)
Oct. 16-17--MT Federation of Teachers Conference, Great Falls (442-2123)
Oct. 20-21--Board of Public Education, Great Falls (444-6576)
Nov. 16-22--American Education Week: "Learning: The Rage at Any Age"

Missing Children Information

The following is the State Department of Justice's most current list of missing Montana children and teenagers (17 years and under). For details on the Missing Children's Program, call Bill Erwin, Department of Justice, Helena 444-3625. (PD=Police Dept.; SO=Sheriff's Office; TP=Tribal Police)

NAME	SEX	RACE	DOB	AGE	HT/WT	HAIR	EYE	STATION
Adams, Cayndie	F	W	61670	16	5'1"/157	BRO	BRO	Laurel PD
Best, Helen D.	F	W	13172	14	5'8/130	BLN	BLU	Hardin SO
Laparie, Evon	F	I	93070	16	5'5"/130	BRO	BRO	Polson SO
Little Whiteman, Janice	F	I	62570	15	5'5"/140	BRO	BRO	N. Cheyenne TP
Long, Marty P.	M	W	112868	17	5'3"/130	BRO	HAZ	Miles City PD
Marshall, Nyleen	F	W	91878	7	3'2"/29	BRO	BLU	Boulder SO
Romsa, Yollanda	F	W	5371	15	5'1"/120	BLK	HAZ	Polson SO
Strutzel, Michael J.	M	W	12481	4	3'0"/30	BLN	BLU	Butte/SlvBw
Sumner, Tracie M.	F	W	3172	14	5'4"/103	BRO	BLU	Livingston PD
Taylor, Marya R.	F	W	82672	13	5'3"/105	BRO	BLU	Choteau SO
Woods, Shawn	M	I	6670	16	5'8"/125	BLK	BRO	Missoula SO
Contway, Heidi E.	F	W	6978	8	4'4"/60	BRO	HAZ	Great Falls SO
Contway, Jason	W	M	62680	6	3'8"/50	BRO	HAZ	Great Falls SO
Woodford, Ryan Lynn (aka Ryan Tennyson, Ryan Watston)	M	W	61471	15	4'8"/95	BRO	BLU	Dept. of Justice

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